

## 14 Day Stay Limit at National Forests Campgrounds And Dispersed Areas

With spring hunts coming up and warmer weather right around the corner, we are reminding people of the 14-day stay limit while camping on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs) per *Order 01-14-561, Apache- Sitgreaves NF Special Restrictions For Occupancy And Use, June 1, 2014*.

Camping or overnight occupancy in any dispersed areas by any person or group for more than 14 consecutive days within a 30-day period is prohibited. *36 CFR 261.58(a)* Dispersed camping is allowed throughout the forests year round with the same 14 consecutive days stay limit. Dispersed camping is with no water or trash services, so it is “pack it in and pack it out.”

Additionally, it is also prohibited by any person or group to camp in any developed campground for more than 14 consecutive days within a 30-day period. You must leave the ASNFs for at least 16 days before returning to camp. *36 CFR 261.58(a)*

These restrictions also apply to camping equipment. Camping equipment may not remain in place longer than the stay limit, even if used by a different person or group. Required removal of camping equipment by the end of the 14 consecutive days stay limit, or the equipment may be impounded.

The forests are home to wildlife, and you are just a visitor. You would not want them coming into your home and trashing it, so don't do it to theirs. The cost of cleaning up after messy campers is enormous, leaving less funding for worthwhile projects. Before you leave, clean your camping area; don't leave papers or other garbage in the fire area.



*Trash on Black Mesa Ranger District*

*Photo by Danielle Oyler, USFS*